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Excellency,

Upon instructions from my Government, I would like to refer to the statement made by the Greek Cypriot leader, Mr. Nicos Anastasiades, at the General Debate of the 74<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly, on 26 September 2019, and to set the record straight in face of the misrepresentations and distortions contained in his statement.

At the outset, I deem it necessary to underline that year after year, we have witnessed appearance of Greek Cypriot representatives before United Nations bodies repeating their well-known baseless allegations against the Turkish Cypriot side and Turkey, ignoring the fact that the very title they sail under is a usurped one, secured forcibly by ousting of the Turkish Cypriot founding partner in 1963 from the 1960 Partnership Republic. The Greek Cypriot administration is neither the government of the 1960 Partnership Republic of Cyprus originally recognized by the community of nations and admitted as the member of the United Nations nor the legitimate successor of that government. The Greek Cypriot administration, therefore, has no right to claim that it speaks for the Turkish Cypriot people nor can it represent the entire Island.

Mr. Anastasiades who remarked that "Cyprus remains the last European divided country" should have also recalled that the UN Comprehensive Settlement Plan of 2004, aka Annan Plan, a product of four and a half years of negotiations, was approved by the Turkish Cypriot people by 65 percent whilst it was overwhelmingly rejected by the Greek Cypriot side in the separate and simultaneous referenda held on both sides of the island. As stated in the report of Secretary-General, in his mission of Good Offices in Cyprus (S/2004/437), following the abovementioned referenda, "What was rejected was the

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solution itself rather than a mere blueprint.”. The rejection by the Greek Cypriot leadership, present and former, of the political equality of the Turkish Cypriots, particularly effective participation in decision making and rotational presidency, resulted in the repeated failures of the past negotiations. As rightly in the said report, the Greek Cypriot side’s vote rejecting the UN comprehensive settlement plan in 2004 demonstrated that they are not ready to “*share power and prosperity with the Turkish Cypriots in a federal structure based on political equality*”, a fact confirmed by the Greek Cypriot intransigence, which led to the collapse of the five-party Cyprus Conference, in Crans-Montana, Switzerland, in 2017. Hence, it should be the duty of the UN to highlight these facts to the Greek Cypriot administration reminding them who has failed Cyprus.

In his statement, the Greek Cypriot leader refers to the efforts for a settlement through “the evolution of the Republic of Cyprus.” This together with the Greek Cypriot side’s opposition to political equality clearly show that the Greek Cypriot side sees the negotiations as an exercise for an arrangement through which the Turkish Cypriots are patched as a “minority” to the long-defunct “Republic of Cyprus”. The Greek Cypriot leadership should be reminded that this entrenched position clearly contradicts the long-established parameter that a negotiated settlement in Cyprus would be in the form of a new partnership on the basis of political equality of the two peoples and that their relationship would not be one of minority or of majority, as clearly acknowledged by the United Nations. Unfortunately, latest written statement of the Greek Cypriot leader, which was submitted to the UN Secretary-General and annexed to his Report on his mission of Good Offices in Cyprus (S/2019/883), reveals the Greek Cypriot leadership’s mentality that defines political equality and effective participation of Turkish Cypriots, as “a veto” and “separatist”.

The Greek Cypriot side’s unwillingness to commit to the idea of sharing of power and prosperity, which is the foundation of federal partnerships, clearly confirms that there is no common vision between the two sides on the island. Therefore, it is imperative that the two sides agree first and foremost on a common vision as regards the future of the island so as to avoid repetition of the 50-year-long failed negotiations. However, it should be born in mind that the unacceptable status quo in Cyprus provides a comfort zone for the Greek Cypriot side, which has allowed the Greek Cypriot administration to act as if it is the Government of Cyprus, become an EU member and exploit the hydrocarbon resources around the island, all unilaterally and without having to co-decide or share the benefits with the Turkish Cypriot side. Hence, unless the international community takes steps to challenge the status quo, the Greek Cypriot side’s reluctance as regards a negotiated settlement will persist.

Mr. Anastasiades claims that Turkish side’s actions as regards the hydrocarbon resources around the island are “undermining the aim of having a conducive environment for meaningful negotiations” and “are attempts to force the Greek Cypriot side to negotiate under duress”. If Mr Anastasiades sincerely desires a conducive environment for meaningful negotiations he should immediately cease his administration’s unilateral and illegitimate activities as regards the hydrocarbon resources around the island which are violating the co-owner rights of the Turkish Cypriot people, as acknowledged by the international community, and thus are the actual cause for tension on the island and the region. Turkish Cypriot side’s activities carried out in collaboration with the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, which is a de facto state, are in violation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1816 (2008) and the UN Security Council Resolution 1850 (2008).

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side's unilateral and illegal activities. Hence, the only side which has been forced to negotiate under duress is the Turkish Cypriot side, which for years have been enduring an unjust and inhuman Greek Cypriot policy of isolation, ranging from representation to trade, travel and sports, and now the hydrocarbon resources.

Mr. Ansatasiades should be reminded that the Turkish Cypriot side has always maintained the view that cooperation on the natural resources around the Island of Cyprus would serve as a catalyst to bring about a negotiated settlement in Cyprus. Such a cooperation between the two sides would create interdependencies and increase the trust between the two peoples of the island, who have equal, inherent co-owner rights on the Island's natural resources. In line with this constructive approach, we have put forward several proposals, most recently, on 13 July 2019. No doubt, such a cooperation would also ensure peace, stability and energy security in the region. It should be underlined that the said proposals of the Turkish Cypriot side are in line with the calls of the UN Secretary-General for developing cooperation amongst the sides, local and international actors, without clinging to insurmountable obstacles (S/2019/562). Contrary to this call and the Turkish Cypriot side's constructive stance, the Greek Cypriot side continues with its unilateral activities around the island, excluding the Turkish Cypriot side's consent and its participation in the decision-making, in order to create a *fait accompli* in the Eastern Mediterranean at the expense of the Turkish Cypriots and Turkey. It must also be underlined that the so-called proposal of the Greek Cypriot side to setup an escrow account under the guardianship of the Greek Cypriot administration is a non-starter and a perfect example of hegemonic Greek Cypriot mentality which sees itself as the owner of the island, disregarding rights and interests of the Turkish Cypriot people.

Hence, Mr. Anastasiades' references to "initiatives aiming to establish conditions of peace and stability in our region, through, amongst others, establishing synergies and enhancing our relations with neighboring countries" as well as "advanced cooperation, ... without exclusions" are contrasting the steps taken by his administration, which totally excludes the Turkish Cypriot side and Turkey and are hostile and discriminative towards them.

Regarding the fenced area of Maraş, the Council of Ministers of the TRNC recently took a decision to establish and task Maraş Inventory Commission, composed of specialists and experts, with conducting a scientific inventory, to identify and study the condition of the moveable and immovable properties and the environmental risks, which would facilitate the determination of any future steps as regards the fenced area of Maraş. This decision is in line with international law and the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and respects the rights of possession of the former inhabitants of the fenced area of Maraş, including the former Greek Cypriot inhabitants. It should be stressed that the former Greek Cypriot inhabitants of the fenced area of Maraş are very excited and supportive of the said decision publicly stating that it will provide for them to go back to their properties, which they are ready to do so (Cyprus Mail online of 10 March 2019). Furthermore, these steps do not in any way prejudice a possible negotiated settlement on the island and in fact is a step towards challenging the status quo which is deemed unacceptable by the international community. Detailed registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act as an agent of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. This material is filed with the Department of Justice where the required registration statement is available for public inspection. Registration does not indicate approval of the contents of this material by the United States Government.

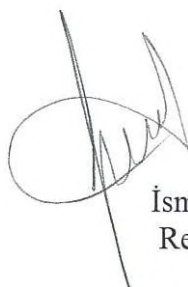


the Security Council through a letter dated 4 October 2019, which was issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/2019/796.

Last but not least, it needs to be stressed that statements by the Greek Cypriot leader such as “illegal Turkish invasion” or “military occupation” are factually incorrect and reflect neither the legal nor the historical reality of the Island. By attempting to portray the Cyprus problem as one of “invasion and occupation”, Mr. Anastasiades expects the United Nations General Assembly to forget the fact that the United Nations has been burdened with the Cyprus problem since 1963 when the atrocities perpetrated by the Greek Cypriot side against the Turkish Cypriots necessitated the deployment of United Nations Force in Cyprus in 1964, 10 years before the Turkish intervention. Therefore, contrary to Mr. Anastasiades’s allegations, the unacceptable status quo in Cyprus came about as a result of the destruction of the 1960 partnership Republic by the Greek Cypriot side in 1963 and not Turkey’s intervention. It should also be stressed that the Turkish intervention in Cyprus was undertaken in accordance with the Treaty of Guarantee of 1960, following the 1974 military coup d’état staged by Greece and its Greek Cypriot collaborators in Cyprus, the aim of which was annexation of Cyprus to Greece. It should be remembered that none of the United Nations Security Council resolutions on Cyprus refers to the legitimate and rightful intervention of Turkey in 1974 as “invasion or occupation”. I also would like to underline that in line with the consent of the Turkish Cypriot people, the presence of the Turkish army in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is a security requirement for our people and has been providing for peace and stability on the island since 1974.

I would be grateful if the present letter is circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 41 of the agenda of its 74<sup>th</sup> session.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration.



İsmet Korukoğlu  
Representative

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